

**Advisory Council for
Asian Pacific American Affairs
August 3, 2006 Meeting Summary**

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs held its August meeting at the Michigan Education Association Headquarters Building in East Lansing with H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D. presiding. This meeting began with a presentation on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation by Harry C. Whalen, Senior Vice President of International Development.

Chair Wilkinson reiterated that the Council's Recommendation Document to the Governor was very well received, and the priority now is to accomplish activities which can be started or completed in a short time frame while being mindful of available resources. Issues brought to the Council by the communities from this point on will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind that they must continue to be consistent with the Council's existing priority projects.

Dr. Wilkinson reported on recent press conferences conducted by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and other public events addressing civil rights, affirmative action and issues impacting on Asian Pacific Americans.

Overall Committee chair Jayashree Kommareddi asked for commitment from each of the Council's other committees to participate in the Overall Committee, to assure input on all priority issues and projects of the Council. Further discussion led the Council to conclude that a separate committee was needed to address cultural events; therefore, the Council voted to initiate a Cultural Committee. Council member Amy Ku'uileialoha Stillman will chair this committee, with assistance from members Willie DeChavez and Marie-Ange Weng.

Other business included reports from the Civil Rights, Communications, Health and Immigration Committees. The Immigration Committee is developing an Immigration Law Seminar; the date for the seminar will be decided in the next week. Council member Susan Im will also be drafting a letter for the Council stating its position on the CGFNS exam for foreign nursing candidates.

New Business: There was discussion about future nominations for Council membership. Dr. Wilkinson will contact the Governor's appointment secretary to discuss this matter.

Old Business: The following motions discussed at prior meetings, and individually duly made and supported, were approved: 1) A goodwill/welcoming committee may be formed on an as-needed basis to assist visiting dignitaries or business representatives of foreign countries; 2) A Communications Committee will be established and will develop a communications plan for the Council; 3) The Council will respond to future legislative proposals by letter or Council support, specifically the English-only legislation watch, citizen identification and voters' registration requirements; and 4) To support the removal of the CGFNS examination requirements for overseas nurses.

The next meeting of the Council will be October 2, 2006 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order (No.2005 – 10) from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.